

## Message Text

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21

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 MC-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 IGA-01 CPR-01 /075 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:CAR:JRBURKE:JR

APPROVED BY ARA:CAR:JRBURKE

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R 162244Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011223

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PDIP HA (BOUCHETTE, GERARD S)

SUBJECT: RECALL OF AMBASSADOR BOUCHETTE

REFERENCE: PORT AU PRINCE 0079

1. A DEJECTED AMBASSADOR BOUCHETTE CALLED ON CARIBBEAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR JANUARY 15 TO DISCUSS HIS RECALL. HE SAID HE HAD RETURNED TO THE CITY JANUARY 13 FROM A TRIP TO THE MIDWEST AND HAD FOUND THE BRIEF TELEGRAM FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY BRUTUS ANNOUNCING THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER HAD DECIDED TO TERMINATE HIS MISSION. TELEGRAM WENT ON TO INFORM HIM THAT HE SHOULD PREPARE TO TURN OVER THE EMBASSY TO A CHARGE WHO WOULD BE DESIGNATED. HE WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT HE COULD PAY HIS FAREWELL CALLS IN THE MEAN-TIME AND WOULD RECEIVE HIS OWN ORDERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. BOUCHETTE WAS INCLINED TO BLAME THE INNER CIRCLE OF ADVISORS AROUND PRESIDENT DUVALIER FOR HIS FATE. HE MENTIONED PARTICULARLY THE MILITARY, NAMING GENERAL GRACIA JACQUES, COLONELS DORCE, JEAN THOMAS, AND MAJOR ACEDIUS  
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ST. LOUIS. HE SAID THAT THESE OFFICERS HAD RESENTED THE

FACT THAT HE HAD INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE QUESTION OF ARMS ACQUISITIONS AND HAD URGED THE PRESIDENT TO SCALE DOWN THE MILITARY'S REQUESTS FOR MATERIEL PURCHASES. THERE WERE

ALSO CERTAIN CIVILIAN ADVISORS TO THE PRESIDENT--HENRI SICLAIT AND LUC DESIR WERE SINGLED OUT--WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS ENEMIES. BOUCHETTE WAS NOT BITTER TOWARDS PRESIDENT DUVALIER. HE PRAISED HIM FOR HIS GOOD INTENTIONS AND HIS GENUINE INTEREST IN IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE HAITIAN POOR. THE PROBLEM WAS, ACCORDING TO BOUCHETTE, THAT THE PRESIDENT OFTEN RECEIVED CONFLICTING ADVICE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND TOOK DECISIONS ON THE BASIS OF INACCURATE INFORMATION AND UNWISE COUNSEL. BOUCHETTE OBVIOUSLY HAS A PARTICULAR DISLIKE OF THE MILITARY ADVISORS AROUND YOUNG DUVALIER AND, AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, HE DARKLY PREDICTED THAT THEY WOULD ONE DAY MOVE TO SEIZE POWER.

3. BOUCHETTE ASKED IF THE USG HAD BEEN UNHAPPY WITH HIM DURING HIS TENURE AS AMBASSADOR. DEPTOFF ASSURED HIM THAT WE HAD ALWAYS FOUND HIM HELPFUL, COOPERATIVE AND RESPONSIVE WHENEVER THERE WAS BUSINESS TO TRANSACT. BOUCHETTE BRIGHTENED A BIT ON HEARING THIS.

4. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO BOUCHETTE'S SUCCESSOR. HE SAID HE HAD NO FIRM INFORMATION AS TO WHOM IT MIGHT BE THOUGH HE HAD HEARD THAT AMBASSADOR SALOMON (PRESENTLY HAITIAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO) WAS A POSSIBILITY. AS FOR HIS OWN FUTURE, BOUCHETTE IS TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF LEAVING THE SERVICE AND SEEKING RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. COMMENT: BOUCHETTE'S MOOD, WHICH COULD BEST BE CHARACTERIZED AS THAT OF SHOCKED SURPRISE WHEN HE PHONED ON JANUARY 13 SEEKING THE ABOVE APPOINTMENT, HAS NOW TRANSFORMED ITSELF INTO PHILOSOPHICAL ACCEPTANCE, BUT HE STILL IS NOT QUITE CERTAIN AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AND WHY. IT HAS NOT YET OCCURRED TO HIM THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE TERMINATION OF HIS MISSION MIGHT BE HIS LACKLUSTRE PERFORMANCE AS AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. KISSINGER  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, HA, (BOUCHETTE, GERARD S)  
**To:** PORT AU PRINCE  
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